PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN CITY
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NEWARK

TAPE: EFX -- A BUSY INTERSECTION -- IN FULL TO ESTABLISH. . . THEN FADE UNDER AND HOLD

NARR: THIS BUSY INTERSECTION IS IN THE HEART OF A METROPOLITAN AREA ON THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN A RADIUS OF FORTY KILOMETERS OF THE THIS SPOT THERE LIVE SIXTEEN MILLION PEOPLE.

TAPE: EFX -- TRAFFIC NOISE SEGUES INTO SOUNDS OF A BUSY HARBOR, UP FULL . . . THEN FADE UNDER AND OUT (ON CUE)

NARR: WE'RE STILL IN THE SAME CITY -- NOW AT THE WATERFRONT. THIS IS PART OF A HARBOR COMPLEX, RENOWNED AS THE LARGEST CONTAINER CARGO PORT IN THE WORLD. A SMALL CITY IN ITSELF, THIS PORT KEEPS EIGHT THOUSAND WORKERS AND TWENTY-THOUSAND TRUCK DRIVERS BUSY. (EFX OUT)

IF YOU'VE GUESSED THAT THE INTERSECTION IS "TIMES SQUARE" AND THE HARBOR IS THE PORT OF NEW YORK, YOUR GUESS IS WRONG, BUT CLOSE -- JUST EIGHTEEN KILOMETERS OFF. (SNEAK MUSIC) FOR THIS CITY IS NOT NEW YORK, BUT NEWARK -- THE PRINCIPAL CITY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY ... (MUSIC UP)

TAPE: MUSIC -- THEME -- UP FULL...HOLD BRIEFLY ...THEN UNDER AND OUT (ON CUE)

ANNCR: ..."PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN CITY." TODAY/TONIGHT, A LOOK AT THE BUSY INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY. YOUR GUIDE IS ----------.

(MUSIC UP AND OUT)

NARR: DAVID RINSKY'S OFFICE OVERLOOKS A PARK WHERE NEWARK'S MILITIA USED TO DRILL IN THE YEAR 1667. TODAY, MILITARY PARK -- AS IT'S CALLED -- IS A SMALL TRIANGLE OF GREENERY IN NEWARK'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND THE ONLY SOLDIERS THERE NOW ARE MADE OUT OF BRONZE, ATOP STONE PEDESTALS. MR. RINSKY IS THE YOUTHFUL PRESIDENT OF THE NEWARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. AS HE SURVEYS THE PARK AND THE BUSY STREETS AROUND IT, HE'LL TELL YOU THAT WHAT BROUGHT SETTLERS TO THIS CITY IN THE MID-SEVENTEENTH CENTURY IS STILL ITSPRIME ASSET TODAY...

TAPE: CUT ONE -- DAVID RINSKY

"MY FRIENDS IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY TELL ME THERE ARE THREE MAJOR CONCERNS: THE FIRST IS LOCATION, THE SECOND IS LOCATION AND THE THIRD IS LOCATION, AND WE SEEM TO HAVE THEM ALL."

TAPE: MUSIC -- A DRIVING RHYTHM THAT CONNNOTES MOVEMENT...IN FULL ...FADES BEHIND AND OUT AT WILL

NARR: INDEED, NEWARK IS AT THE HUB OF A VAST TRANSPORTATION NETWORK. LOCATED DUE WEST OF NEW YORK CITY, WITH EASY ACCESS TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, NEWARK IS ALSO SERVED BY FIVE MAJOR RAILROADS, A GIANT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FIFTY BUS LINES AND A WEB OF HIGHWAYS. IT IS A CITY OF NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS, WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-EIGHT SQUARE KILOMETERS.

OF COURSE, ROBERT TREAT AND HIS BAND OF PRESBYTERIAN SETTLERS WHO CAME FROM NEARBY CONNECTICUT TO ESTABLISH NEWARK IN MAY 1666, COULD NOT EVEN DREAM OF WHAT WAS TO COME. BUT HOWARD WISEMAN, CURATOR OF THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAYS IN LARGE MEASURE EASY ACCESS ENCOURAGED ROBERT TREAT'S GROUP TO SETTLE WHERE THEY DID...

TAPE : CUT TWO -- HOWARD WISEMAN

"GEOGRAPHY WAS A FACTOR -- A PROTECTED BAY HERE, NEWARK BAY AND THE PASSAIC RIVER, TRANSPORTATION OF COURSE, THERE WERE NO ROADS AT THAT TIME AND PARTLY RELIGION -- PRESBYTERIANS WANTED A NEW COLONY. THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWARK WAS FOUNDED AT THE SAME TIME HERE IN 1666."

NARR: NEWARK GOT ITS IS NAME FROM THE ORIGINAL HOME OF ITS FIRST PASTOR, THE REVEREND ABRAHAM PIERSON, WHO WAS ORDAINED IN NEWARK-ON-TRENT, ENGLAND. DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, THE COMMUNITY WAS SPLIT BETWEEN THOSE WHO WERE LOYAL TO ENGLAND AND THOSE WHO SOUGHT INDEPENDENCE. MANY LOYALISTS FLED TO CANADA AFTER THE WAR.

NEWARK WAS A SMALL COMMUNITY THEN, AND HISTORIAN HOWARD WISEMAN SAYS THAT IT REMAINED SO FOR QUITE SOME TIME...

TAPE: CUT THREE -- HOWARD WISEMAN

OPT

"OFFICIALLY IT BECAME A CITY IN 1836, WHICH SEEMS RATHER LATE AFTER ITS SETTLEMENT. BUT DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, IT GREW FROM A SMALL TOWN TO QUITE A SMALL CITY -- I WOULD SAY ABOUT THIRTY OR FORTY THOUSAND PEOPLE. AND ITS MAIN INDUSTRY WAS JEWELRY, HATS, (AND) LEATHER."/

TAPE: MUSIC...NARRATIVE, THEME...IN FULL...FADE BEHIND AND OUT AT WILL

NARR: NEWARK, LIKE OTHER MAJOR EAST COAST CITIES EXPERIENCED A WAVE OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION AS IT ENTERED THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. BY THE 1920'S AND EARLY 1930'S, NEWARK HAD BLOSSOMED AS A COMMERCIAL AND INSURANCE CENTER.

THE EARLY IMMIGRANTS FOUND WORK IN NEWARK'S BUSTLING FACTORIES AND OFFICES AND WERE EMPLOYED BUILDING ITS ROADS AND UTILITIES. BUT AFTER WORLD WAR TWO, THINGS CHANGED. A NEW WAVE OF IMMIGRANTS -- POOR BLACKS FROM THE SOUTH AND PUERTO

NARR: (CONT'D) RICANS CAME INTO A CITY THAT WAS FOLLOWING A NATIONAL TREND -- THE FLIGHT OF INDUSTRY AND MIDDLE CLASS RESIDENTS TO THE SUBURBS. NEWARK WAS GOING INTO A DECLINE AND THERE WERE FEWER AND FEWER JOBS TO BE HAD. THE ETHNIC MAKE-UP OF THE CITY SLOWLY CHANGED. GONE TODAY ARE MOST OF THE IRISH, ITALIANS AND GERMANS WHO WERE ITS EARLY RESIDENTS. NEWARK IS NOW ABOUT SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT BLACK AND TWENTY-PERCENT SPANISH-SPEAKING.

NEWARK'S MAYOR, KENNETH GIBSON, ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CITY HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES...

TAPE : CUT FOUR -- MAYOR KENNETH GIBSON

"THE MAJOR PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE IS RELATED TO THE MAJOR PROBLEM THAT ALMOST ALL URBAN CENTERS HAVE AND THAT IS THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE. THOSE THINGS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE INCLUDE EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT ITEMS FOR ANY CITIZEN. AND WE, OF COURSE, ARE AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION THAT CREATES THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THIS COUNTRY -- WHICH NATIONALLY IS SOMEWHERE AROUND SEVEN PERCENT -- BUT IN NEWARK IT'S CLOSER TO SEVENTEEN PERCENT."

NARR: THE POVERTY THAT HAS PLAGUED NEWARK TURNED INTO FRUSTRATION AND ERUPTED INTO CIVIL DISTRUBANCES IN 1967 IN THE CITY'S POOR CENTRAL WARD. IT IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT TRUE,THAT EVEN TODAY -- TEN YEARS LATER -- WHEN MANY PEOPLE THINK OF NEWARK, THEIR IMAGE IS PRIMARILY SHAPED BY THAT INCIDENT AND BY NEWARK'S REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE POOREST AMERICAN CITIES MOST CRIME RIDDEN AND LEAST HEALTHY IN THE NATION. ACCORDING TO URBAN STUDIES PROFESSOR DOCTOR HAROLD MARGULIES, OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, IN NEWARK:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- DOCTOR HAROLD MARGULIES

"ESSENTIALLY, THE CITY HAS A REPUTATION WHICH IT GAINED BECAUSE OF THE SIXTY-SEVEN RIOTS, BECAUSE OF THE DECAY, BECAUSE ESSENTIALLY IT IS THE MAJOR CITY IN NEW JERSEY. AND AS A RESULT, WHEN ONE -- PARTICULARLY THE MASS MEDIA -- LOOKS ABOUT FOR A REPRESENTATIVE CITY, THE FOCUS IS ON NEWARK. AND, OF COURSE, INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE POSITIVE IT'S A LOT EASIER TO EMPHASIZE THE NEGATIVE."

NARR: IT IS TRUE THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1970'S NEWARK HAD THE NATION'S HIGHEST CRIME RATE. BUT TODAY, THERE HAS BEEN A DROP IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CATEGORY OF CRIME AND NEWARK IS NOW TWENTY-THIRD IN THE NATION IN CRIME. OVER THE PAST DECADE THE RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY AND ILLNESS HAS ALSO DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, AS MORE AND BETTER HEALTH CARE IS BEING PROVIDED IN THE CITY.

IN 1967 -- THE YEAR OF THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES -- THERE WERE FEW MINORITY GROUPS REPRESENTED IN CITY GOVERNMENT. BUT IN 1970, MAYOR GIBSON BECAME THE FIRST BLACK MAYOR OF A MAJOR NORTHEAST CITY AND HE HAS BEEN JOINED IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BY A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MINORITY CITY COUNCILMEN. IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, RECREATION, NEWARK HAS ALSO COME FAR -- IF NOT FAR ENOUGH.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY'S DOCTOR MARGULIES IS NOT SURPRISED THAT NEWARK IS USED AS THE TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF URBAN DECLINE. BUT HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE, IT COULD BECOME A MODEL OF URBAN REVITALIZATION:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- DOCTOR HAROLD MARGULIES

"I THINK WHAT IS REQUIRED WITHIN THE CITY IS A RE-ALIGNMENT POLITICALLY. A RE-ALIGNMENT WHICH MAY COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE BLACK MIDDLE CLASS COINCIDING WITH THE PORTUGUESE-HISPANIC-ITALIAN COMMUNITIES. THAT'S NUMBER

TAPE: (CONT'D) ONE. NUMBER TWO, I THINK IT'S ESSENTIALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE URBAN INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN HE CITY, THAT ARE PLANNED, WHICH HAVE NOT, THUS FAR, BEEN EXECUTED, DEVELOP. IN DEVELOPING, WE CREATE ENERGY-EFFICIENT INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE CITY. THIRDLY, I THINK THAT THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM OFF ITS COAST AND THE LOCATION OF THE STATE IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOURCES OF COAL WITHIN THE REGION, BODE WELL FOR THE STATE IN TERMS OF HAVING ACCESS TO ENERGY. AND THE FOURTH THING -- BASICALLY THE NATIONAL ECONOMY -- A MORE EQUITABLE SHIFT OF FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS INTO THE REGION. THESE ARE THE FOUR THINGS WHICH -- I THINK -- CAN BODE VERY WELL FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF NEWARK AND THE REVITALIZATION OF NEWARK AND INDEED THE RESURRECTION OF THE CITY."

NARR: WHILE THERE ARE THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH DOCTOR MARGULIES' ON THE ROAD NEWARK SHOULD TAKE, FEW BELIEVE THAT REBIRTH IS IMPOSSIBLE AND MANY FEEL THAT NEWARK'S DOWNWARD TREND HAS ALREADY BEEN REVERSED. /

TAPE: EFX -- A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IS TUNING UP ... IN FULL TO ESTABLISH...FADE UNDER NARR AND OUT GRACEFULLY

NARR: WE ARE IN NEWARK'S SYMPHONY HALL. BUILT IN 1925, IT IS NOW UNDERGOING A FACELIFT -- ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE REVITALIZATION OF THE CITY. SYMPHONY HALL IS THE "GRANDE DAME" OF BROAD STREET -- ADORNED WITH MARBLE COLUMNS AND GOLD-LEAF FRETWORK, A COMBINATION OF EGYPTIAN AND GREEK MOTIFS AND A CRYSTAL CHANDELIER. SYMPHONY HALL IS HOME TO THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. THE ORCHESTRA'S ASSISTANT CONCERT-MASTER, VIOLINIST ESTHER GILBERT, SAYS THE HALL IS A MUSIC-LOVER'S JOY ...

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- ESTHER GILBERT

"SYMPHONY HALL IS A BEAUTIFUL AUDITORIUM -- ACOUSTICALLY AND ARCHITECTURALLY TOO, I THINK. IT IS AN OLD-FASHIONED STYLE, BUT IT HAS A LOT OF INNATE ELEGANCE. IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, A GROUP OF PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS HAVE SPARKED A CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE IT. (SNEAK MUSIC) AND WHILE WE WERE AT REHEARSALS WE SAW SOME OF THESE RENOVATIONS THAT WERE TAKING PLACE AND THEY WERE REALLY BEAUTIFUL. THEY HAD RESTORED THE BUILDING TO IMPRESSIVE CONDITIONS. I ENJOY

TAPE: (CONT'D) PLAYING THERE AND I THINK THAT MOST ARTISTS WHO COME THERE ENJOY PLAYING THERE."

TAPE: MUSIC -- A BRIGHT PIECE. . . UP FULL . . . THEN FADE UNDER NARR AND OUT AT WILL

NARR: PERHAPS THE REASON WHY THE POSITIVE SIDE OF NEWARK IS NOT EMPHASIZED MORE IS THAT ITS CITIZENS DON'T GO AROUND PROMOTING THE CITY. THERE'S NO SONG ABOUT NEWARK COMPARABLE TO "I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO," OR "NEW YORK, NEW YORK, IT'S A HELLUVA TOWN." IT EVEN TAKES SOME COAXING TO GET NEWARK'S MAYOR GIBSON TO BRAG A LITTLE ABOUT THE CITY. . .

TAPE: CUT EIGHT -- MAYOR KENNETH GIBSON

"WELL, WE SAY THAT THE ONLY REAL WAY TO GET AN OBJECTIVE VIEW IS TO COME AND VISIT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PEOPLE COME TO VISIT THE CITY OF NEWARK. TO GET FROM THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, A REPORT, HAS TO BE A REPORT FROM A PERSON WHO HAS A GOOD FEELING ABOUT HIS OWN CITY. WE HAVE A BUSTLING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WHICH CAN REALLY ONLY BE APPRECIATED IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT.

"NEWARK REALLY IS A CULTURAL CENTER AND AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER. WE HAVE THE LARGEST COMPLEX OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RIGHT HERE IN THE CITY OF NEWARK. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BEYOND THAT, WE HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST MUSEUMS IN THE COUNTRY -- EVEN THOUGH SMALL -- HERE IN NEWARK. WE HAVE -- WITHOUT QUESTION -- ONE OF THE FINEST LIBRARIES IN THE COUNTRY, IN NEWARK. WE HAVE THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, THE NEW JERSEY BALLET, AND I CAN GO ON AND ON WITH THE PERFORMING ARTS THAT HAVE THEIR BASE HERE IN NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL. SO WE ARE AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COMPLEX AND CENTER AND VERY PROUD OF IT."

NARR: NEWARK'S EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX -- DEVELOPED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS -- IS LOCATED ON ONE HUNDRED THIRTY HECTARES IN WHAT USED TO BE PART OF THE MOST DECAYED AREA OF THE CITY. FOUR OUT OF THE FIVE MAJOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN NEWARK ARE LOCATED THERE. FORTY THOUSAND FULL AND PART-TIME STUDENTS STUDY LAW, MEDICINE, THE ARTS AND SCIENCES IN DOWNTOWN NEWARK.

NARR: (CONT'D) AND HAROLD EUSTACHE -- FORMER PRESIDENT OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY'S BLACK ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS SAYS THERE IS A REAL UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IN NEWARK...

OPT

TAPE: CUT NINE -- HAROLD EUSTACHE

"THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS OF THIS CITY HAVE A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP. THE STUDENTS HAVE JOINT ACTIVITIES. MOST OF THE ACTIVITIE -- UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE WHOLE STUDENT POPULATION OF THE CITY OF NEWARK."/

TAPE: MUSIC -- NARRATIVE THEME. . . IN FULL . . . THEN DIPS UNDER AND OUT AT WILL

NARR: IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES YOU CAN WALK FROM UNIVERSITY AVENUE, AND THE ULTRA-MODERN COLLEGE CAMPUSES, TO FERRY STREET -- PART OF A RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD WITH TWO-STORY FRAME BUILDINGS. BUT EVEN ASIDE FROM THE ARCHITECTURE, WALKING ALONG FERRY STREET IS ALMOST LIKE BEING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY -- FOR THIS IS THE IRONBOUND SECTION. JACK SHEEHAN -- A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- GIVES TOURS OF THE CITY'S OLD NEIGHBORHOODS, INCLUDING IRONBOUND . . .

TAPE: CUT TEN -- JACK SHEEHAN

"THE NAME IS DERIVED FROM THE FACT THAT THE AREA OF LAND IS BOUNDED ON FOUR SIDES BY THE RAILROAD. OVER THE YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE MECCA FOR DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE ON RECORD, FIFTY-FOUR DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WITHIN THAT COMMUNITY. THE MOST PREDOMINANT ARE THE PORTUGUESE."

TAPE: MUSIC -- NARRATIVE THEME RESUMES -- IN FULL, SUSTAINS UNDER

NARR: BUT IF IT'S SURPRISING TO FIND THAT NEWARK HAS A PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY OF ABOUT THIRTY THOUSAND, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY SURPRISE A WALK THROUGH THE CITY'S NEIGHBORHOODS CAN PROVIDE. THERE IS THE CHERRY BLOSSOM DISPLAY IN BRANCH BROOK PARK -- LARGER THAN THE DISPLAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.'S FAMED CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL. THERE'S THE SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL IN THE FOREST HILL SECTION OF NEWARK -- A CLASSIC FRENCH GOTHIC CATHEDRAL, RESEMBLING THE GREAT CATHEDRAL IN RHEIMS, FRANCE AND APPROXIMATELY THE SIZE OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY IN LONDON. OR ACROSS TOWN, THERE'S THE ROW OF VICTORIAN-STYLE BROWNSTONE MANSIONS AROUND LINCOLN PARK.

BUT PERHAPS THE GREATEST SURPRISE IS THAT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY -- IN THE SHADOW OF NEW YORK CITY, WITH A TARNISHED REPUTATION, WITH ALL THE TROUBLES OF URBAN AMERICA -- IS QUITELY WORKING TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS AND PERHAPS MAKING A COMEBACK TO ITS FORMER STATUS AS A GREAT AMERICAN CITY.

TAPE : MUSIC . . . UP FULL . . .

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